

# ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

for the

Crawford Waterline and Power Rights-of-Way Application  
(OR 58258)

EA# OR110-03-25

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
MEDFORD DISTRICT  
GRANTS PASS RESOURCE AREA

August 2003

## **Chapter 1**

### **Purpose of and Need for the Proposal**

#### **A. Introduction**

This environmental assessment (EA) is to assist in the decision-making process by assessing the environmental and human affects resulting from implementing the proposed project and/or alternatives. The EA will also assist in determining if an environmental impact statement (EIS) needs to be prepared or if a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) is appropriate.

This EA tiers to: (1) the Final EIS and Record of Decision (ROD) dated June 1995 for the Medford District Resource Management Plan dated October 1994; (2) the Final Supplemental EIS on Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl dated February 1994; (3) the Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl and its Attachment A entitled the Standards and Guidelines for Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl dated April 13, 1994; (4) Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines (January 2001).

#### **B. Purpose of and Need for the Proposal**

Ms. Linda Crawford has applied for a right-of-way (ROW) authorization from the Bureau of Land Management to allow installation and maintenance of a buried power line and an above ground water line across BLM administered land. (The water diversion point is not located on BLM administered land.)

Map #1 shows the general location of the project area, the existing road crossing BLM lands, and the location of the proposed new buried waterline, power line, and pump locations.

#### **C. Objectives of the Proposed Action**

The primary objectives for the proposed action are:

1. Provide an environmentally sound way to transport water across BLM administered land to Linda Crawford's property.
2. Locate the water and power line in a manner not to preclude other management activities.
3. Identify the location of the water and power line on the ground in order to protect the improvement.

## **Chapter 2**

### **Proposed Action and Alternatives**

#### **A. Introduction**

A BLM interdisciplinary planning team was created to review the proposed action. No substantive issues of concern were raised by the team. Members of the interdisciplinary team visited the site with Ms. Crawford in June of 2003 to assess specific design questions. This meeting resulted in the refinement of the proposed action and the identification of project design features that are incorporated in the proposed action alternative. In addition to the on-site visits with Ms. Crawford, botanical, cultural, and wildlife surveys were conducted in conjunction with the planning and analysis of the Anderson West Landscape Management Project.

#### **B. Issues Relevant to the Proposed Project**

Planning issues identified through the BLM planning process are:

1. Potential for impacts on existing vegetation
2. Potential for impacts to the existing transportation facility

#### **C. Proposed Action and Alternatives**

1. Alternative 1: No Action

In this document the “no-action” alternative is defined as not implementing any aspect of the proposed action alternative. The ROW permit application would be denied. Defined this way, the action alternative also serves as a baseline or reference point for evaluating the environmental effects of the action alternative. Inclusion of this alternative is done without regard to whether or not it is consistent with the Medford District Resource Management Plan.

2. Alternative 2: Proposed Action

The proposed action is to grant the right-of-way grant has requested. This would allow location of a buried water and power line across BLM land in T.37S., R.8W. Section 35 NW1/4NW1/4 WM. The Right-of-Way (ROW) grant would allow for the placement of a four inch water line and power line from an area within twenty feet of the northwest corner of section 35. The water and power line would be laid in an east / west direction within twenty five feet of the section line between sections 35 and 26. The water and power line would run approximately 1,200 feet to a private road on BLM. It would then be located within the road prism adjacent to the running surface from that point to property owned by Linda Crawford. The power line would be buried, using a trencher, to a maximum depth of thirty-six (36) inches and the water line would be laid on top of the ground. While a minor amount of vegetation would be displaced during trenching; no trees greater than 2” diameter would be cut in conjunction with this action. The power line would supply power to a maximum of three booster pumps as shown on Map 1. Each booster pump would require 3’ X 3’ cement slab and a pump enclosure box capable of being locked.

The location of the lines shall be designated on the ground by the placement of warning signs no more than two hundred feet apart. The cost of the warning signs and the maintenance of the warning signs shall be borne by the applicant.

The proposed ROW is approximately 1,400 feet in length and 25 feet in width encompassing approximately 0.48 acres. Prior to beginning installation of the water and power system the holder shall provide to the BLM an engineered design of the proposed system.

The ROW grant would be issued for thirty years and would be issued under the authority of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 USC 1761)

#### **D. Project Design Features**

Project Design Features (PDFs) are included for the purpose of reducing anticipated adverse environmental impacts identified in the scoping process and which might stem from the implementation of the proposed action/preferred alternative. The PDFs for the proposed action are as follows:

- a. Berms of soil created by the trenching activities will be smoothed out to conform to the adjacent land surface.
- b. The applicant will provide to the BLM a final design of the system prior to construction.
- c. The applicant will designate the location of the system on-the-ground by placing and maintain warning signs no more than 200 feet apart.
- d. The applicant will provide the BLM a copy of established water rights which allows water to be removed from Clear Creek.

## **Chapter 3**

### **Environmental Consequences**

#### **A. Introduction**

Only substantive site-specific environmental changes that would result from implementing the proposed action or alternatives are discussed in this chapter. If an ecological component is not discussed, it should be assumed that the resource specialists have considered affects to that component and found the proposed action or alternatives would have minimal or no affects. Similarly, unless addressed specifically, the following were found not to be affected by the proposed action or alternatives: air quality; areas of critical environmental concern (ACEC); cultural or historical resources; Native American religious sites; prime or unique farmlands; flood plains; endangered, threatened or sensitive plant, animal or fish species; water quality; wetlands/riparian zones; wild and scenic rivers; and wilderness areas. In addition, hazardous waste or materials are not directly involved in the proposed action or alternatives.

General or "typical" affects from projects similar in nature to the proposed action or alternatives are also described in the EISs and plans this EA is tiered to.

#### **B. Beneficial and Adverse Effects of the Alternatives**

##### **1. Resource: Soils / Water Quality**

###### **a. Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences**

The project is located in the Clear Creek drainage which is tributary to Anderson Creek. Impacts of the proposed action's trenching activities would displace only minor amounts of soil. The diversion point in Clear Creek and riparian reserve is located on private land. No adverse impact is anticipated.

##### **2. Resource: Fisheries**

###### **a. Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences**

Impacts on fisheries would be temporary in both the short-term and long-term, and spatially at the project and watershed scales. No effects to fisheries or aquatic resources are anticipated from the proposed action. This determination includes short- and long-term as well as direct and indirect effects. There is no effect to coho salmon or coho critical habitat from the proposed action and the proposed action does not hinder attainment of the Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objectives of the Northwest Forest Plan.

##### **3. Resource: Wildlife**

a. Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

The project area provides potential habitat for a number of special status wildlife species including the bald eagle, great blue heron, osprey, three bat species, Lewis's woodpecker, Rufous hummingbird, and Flammulated owls.

There are no known bald eagle, great blue heron, or osprey sites known within the vicinity of the project area. However, the river area adjacent to the project area does provide foraging habitat for these species. Likewise, no roosting or nesting sites are known in the project area for the three bat species, Lewis's woodpecker, Rufous hummingbird, or flammulated owls but habitat in the vicinity of the project area does provide potential, though marginal, roosting and nesting habitat for these species. Foraging habitat is present throughout the area. No impacts are anticipated due to the very localized and small scale disturbances involved.

4. Resources: Botany

a. Affected Environmental and Environmental Consequences

Botanical surveys for vascular and non-vascular plants have been conducted in conjunction with Anderson West Landscape Management Project. No threatened, endangered, or special status plants were found within the ROW area.

5. Resource: Cultural

a. Affected Environmental and Environmental Consequences

A cultural survey was conducted in conjunction with the Anderson West Landscape Management Project. No sites were discovered in the ROW project area.

## **Chapter 4**

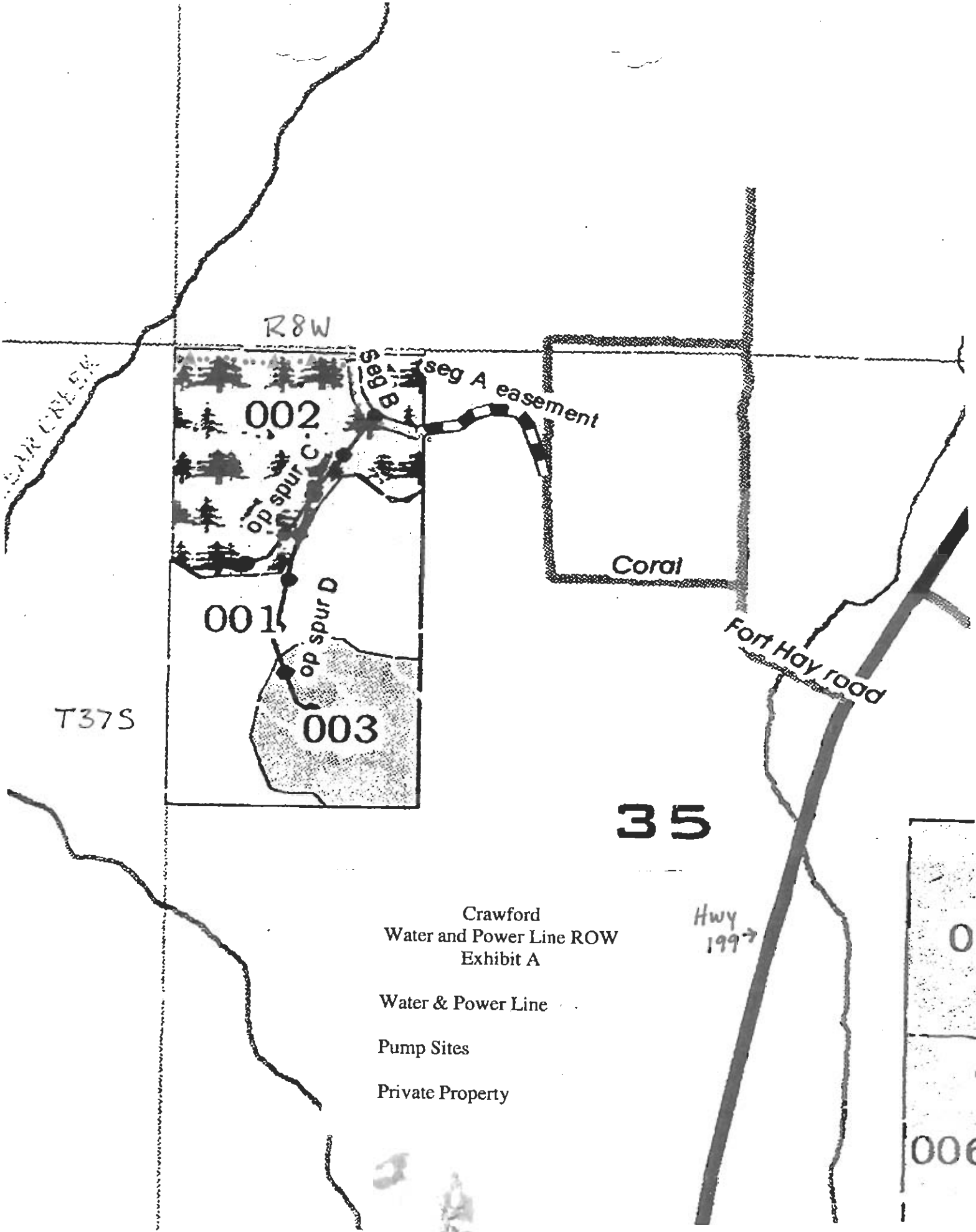
### **Agencies and Persons Consulted**

#### **A. Public Involvement**

Scoping for the project was done within the core team. In addition, a field visit with the applicant was conducted in order to answer questions raised by the ID team and refine the applicant's proposed action. Russell Groves, Grants Pass Realty Specialist, Leslie Voekel, Butte Falls Realty Specialist, and Matt Craddock District Realty Specialist met with the applicant.

#### **B. Availability of Document and Comment Procedures**

A fifteen day public comment period will be held upon completion of this environmental analysis (EA). The EA document will be available for public review at the Medford District office, 3040 Biddle Road, Medford. Notification of the availability of the EA will be made by publication of a notice in the Grants Pass Courier newspaper. Comments should be sent to: Medford District BLM, Grants Pass Resource Area, 3040 Biddle Road, Medford, OR 97504.



Crawford  
Water and Power Line ROW  
Exhibit A

Water & Power Line

Pump Sites

Private Property

Hwy  
199→

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